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Carolina Bird Club
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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 60 August 2014 Number 4

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CBC Fall Meeting - September 26-27 in Charleston

Irvin Pitts

Charleston, a city rich in history and nationally acclaimed for its beautiful landscapes and well-preserved architecture, will be our destination when we gather for our Fall 2014 Carolina Bird Club meeting the weekend of September 26-27. Charleston, a city of elegant, Southern charm, boasts fine dining at distinguished restaurants and unique shopping experiences. The city's cultural center, Historic Downtown, allows visitors to explore cobblestoned streets and experience unsurpassed, historic Southern architecture while enjoying various galleries and museums located adjacent to the scenic and historic harbor. Folks will find there is much to see and do in addition to varied and plentiful opportunities for fabulous fall birding!

Charleston's proximity to some of South Carolina's finest and most treasured natural coastal resources allows us to offer trips to habitats ranging from wild, scenic beaches to longleaf pine savannas. We expect excellent birding, and our field trips are being designed to offer participants the opportunity to enjoy the best this region has to offer. Destinations include notable hotspots in the Charleston area, coastal barrier islands, former plantations, beautiful gardens, old growth cypress swamps and much, much more. Shorebird migration should be going strong, and we will seek out these southbound migrants as well as many of the other marsh and sea birds associated with rich coastal environments. Fall along the coast can also be particularly exciting for Neotropical songbird migration, and we will explore some of the area's "migrant traps" in search of these colorful jewels. In addition to our exciting slate of field trips led by a competent team of top birders, participants have an opportunity to enjoy excellent evening presentations on bird-related topics. So make your plans and register now!

Our meeting headquarters is the Charleston Plaza Hotel (**formerly the Inn Place Hotel, same place, different name**), located at 4770 Goer Drive near the Charleston Airport in North Charleston just off I-26 and minutes away from downtown Charleston. Special room rates are being offered to CBC members for $89.00/night (not including taxes). Some rooms are equipped with microwaves and small refrigerators that are available on a first come first served basis and for an additional charge. To reserve a room contact the Charleston Plaza Hotel at 1-888-747-1900 and be sure to identify yourself as a Carolina Bird Club participant. Any requests for special room arrangements may be made at the time of your reservation. The reservation cut off date for these rates is **September 11, 2014** so please don't delay. Check-in time is 4:00 PM.

The Charleston Plaza Hotel is a 100% non-smoking facility. The hotel has a restaurant that serves breakfast and dinner, but not lunch. Each room has a coffee

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CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), August 2014, Volume 60, Number 4. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

London Calling!

Steve Shultz

London acts as an aviation gateway to Europe, and of course is a wildly popular business and travel destination in its own right. Carolina birders, finding themselves in town for a layover or longer visit may wonder if there might be some good birding to be had. Fortunately the answer is a resounding "yes!" From taking short break in one of the city's expansive Royal parks, to making a dedicated trip to a local birding hotspot, birders can find much to like in the United Kingdom's capital city.

Flyers with a long layover at Heathrow may be surprised to know that just a short distance away, and easily accessible via public transportation, is the expansive London Wetland Centre (LWC). This 44 hectare, recreated wetland habitat features walking paths, observation blinds (or "hides"), reed beds, open water, and flooded fields. The variety of habitats ensures that visitors have a good chance at seeing a number of bird species in a relatively short period of time. Arguably best in winter and during migration, LWC nonetheless remains worthy of a stop any time of the year. On a recent visit in late March, I enjoyed lingering waterfowl, local nesters including Tufted Duck and Pochard, breeding plumaged Great Crested and Little Grebes, Northern Lapwing, Redshank, Grey Heron, Eurasian Coot, Common Gallinule, European Robin, Sand Martin, Chiffchaff, Cetti's Warbler, Blackcap, a variety of tits, Reed Bunting, and more.

Admission is a little pricy at £12.50, but the entrance fees contribute to wetland conversation, and the convenience of the Centre is well worth the cost. An on-site café competes with the nearby Red Lion Pub for your dining attentions, and the wetlands are but a few hundred yards from the famous red double-decker bus's well marked stops.

To get to LWC from Heathrow, take the Underground's Piccadilly Line to Hammersmith station and connect to either the 209 or 286 bus to Red Lion/ Barnes. Travel time is typically less than an hour.

Visitors to central London have a pair of expansive Royal parks at their disposal, and both provide fine birding. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (a 253-hectare contiguous tract but with separately named sections) lies but a few blocks from Buckingham Palace and is home to both water-loving birds and passerines. Surrounded by no fewer than five Underground stations, birders can be looking at Long-tailed Tits and Great Spotted Woodpeckers within minutes of "minding the gap" and stepping off the subway.

Habitat can be divided roughly into three parts, open parkland, water, and riparian vegetation. Since the park can become very busy during the day, early morning birders should first focus on the open parkland, saving the water and riparian areas for times when the parkland birds are quiet and reclusive. Riparian sections remain good throughout the day since they are fenced off and not accessible to passers-by, but can still be "birded" fairly effectively. Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Ring-necked Parakeet, Tawny Owl, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, Wren, European Robin, European Blackbird, Long-tailed, Coal, Blue and Great Tits, Magpie, Jay, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch and Greenfinch may all be found in the large trees covering much of the park. The large pond, or Serpentine, holds Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Mandarin, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Great Crested and Little Grebes, Common Gallinule, Eurasian Coot, a variety of gulls, and during summer and migration, Common Swifts, House Martins, and other swallows skim the surface for insects. Riparian areas hold Wren, Blackcap, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail, and potentially many of the other species noted in the open parkland.

There is no waterfowl collection here, unlike at Regent's Park and St. James Park, so most of the waterfowl are "countable" but be aware that strays from the collections sometimes find their way here.

A bit farther to the north, and within spitting distance of famous Baker Street, sits 166-hectare Regent's Park. With similar birdlife to its southern neighbor, Regent's Park complements Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens quite nicely. An added attraction at Regent's

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London

Park is the presence of a heron rookery where dozens of Grey Herons raise young each spring. The islands in Boating Lake are off limits to visitors, allowing the herons and local waterfowl to nest without disturbance. Fenced off areas of habitat attractive to passerines, along with scattered feeding stations, make looking for Britain's woodland birds rewarding. Birders can also brush up on field identification by enjoying views of the park's waterfowl collection, housed in barricaded arms of the lake. Differentiating between the non-countable waterfowl and the "wild" birds is fairly easy presuming the visiting birder knows what species are naturally occurring (or established exotics) and which are not, as the waterfowl collection consists primarily of non-local species. The most convenient Underground stations to Regent's Park are Baker Street and, aptly named, Regent's Park. Like the LWC, birders can expect to be putting glass on birds within about an hour of leaving Heathrow.

So if you should find yourself facing an undesired shopping trip to Oxford Street or an hours-long wait in the queue to ride the London Eye, grab your trusty binoculars and enjoy some properly British birding in the heart of London!

CBC Executive Committee Changes

New officers elected to replace outgoing board members at the Hendersonville spring meeting were Doris Ratchford of Todd, NC as Secretary, and Lewis Burke of Columbia, as SC Member-at-Large. Jesse Pope of Linville was elected as Western NC Member-at-Large, and Scott Winton as Eastern NC Vice President. Jesse and Scott had previously been appointed to these positions to fill vacancies. Re-elected to continuing terms were Katherine Higgins for the second of two one-year terms as President, and Samir Gabriel for the second of potentially three one-year terms as Treasurer. After the election, Jeri Smart of Rolesville was appointed Eastern NC Member-at-Large to fill a new vacancy.

Charleston

maker, and the hotel offers complimentary Wi-Fi. Registrants arriving on Thursday evening, September 25th, may pick up their registration packets that evening. The hotel will be the location for our evening programs and other social events related to our meeting.

Our Friday night speaker is Melissa Bimbi, Endangered Species Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Melissa works in the South Carolina Field Office and will be speaking on some of the ongoing work in South Carolina involving Piping Plovers and Red Knots.

Our keynote speaker on Saturday evening is John Cely. John is well known to many in the Carolina Bird Club and his significant conservation work leaves a lasting legacy in South Carolina. John graduated from Clemson University with an M.S. in Wildlife Biology. After a long career with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, where much of his work involved avian research, he served as the Land Protection Director for the Congaree Land Trust for five years. In 2011, he authored *Cowassee Basin: The Green Heart of South Carolina*. More recently he contributed a chapter, "Big Woods," about the Congaree Swamp, in a new book from USC Press, *State of the Heart*. He has served on the COWASEE Basin Task Force. John's presentation will focus on some of the bird research he has carried out over the years at Congaree National Park.

A more in-depth program agenda will be provided to registrants at check-in. We hope you will join us for an exciting weekend of birding and presentations!

The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website. The most recent editions of each are only accessible to CBC members. To access the "members only" content, you must first create a login and password. This can be done at http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/register.html. Once you have your login and password established, you can login at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/login.html.

CBC Charleston Meeting Schedule

Friday, September 26

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 1: Cape Romain NWR - 7:45
Trip 2: Santee Coastal Reserve & Santee Delta - 7:00
Trip 3: Bear Island Wildlife Management Area - 7:00
Trip 4: Edisto Island and Roxbury Park - 7:00
Trip 5: Tour of Charleston Harbor - 7:30
Trip 6: Center for Birds of Prey and Francis Marion National Forest - 7:30

Morning Half-day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 7: Folly Beach - 7:30
Trip 8: Caw Caw Interpretive Center - 7:15
Trip 9: Magnolia Gardens - 7:30
Trip 10: Francis Beidler Forest - 7:15
Trip 11: Kiawah Island and Beachwalker Park - 6:15
Trip 12: South Tibwin Plantation - 7:15

Afternoon Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)
Trip 13: Folly Beach - 1:15
Trip 14: Caw Caw Interpretive Center - 1:30
Trip 15: Francis Beidler Forest - 1:00
Trip 16: South Tibwin Plantation - 1:00
Trip 17: Charles Towne Landing SHS- 1:00
Trip 18: New Birder's Workshop - 1:15

Saturday, September 27

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 19: Cape Romain NWR - 7:45
Trip 20: Santee Coastal Res. & Santee Delta - 7:00
Trip 21: Bear Island WMA - 7:00
Trip 22: Edisto Island and Roxbury Park - 7:00
Trip 23: Tour of Charleston Harbor - 7:30
Trip 24: McAlhany Nature Preserve and the Orangeburg Sod Farms - 7:00 AM

Morning Half-day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 25: Folly Beach - 7:30
Trip 26: Caw Caw Interpretive Center - 7:15
Trip 27: Magnolia Gardens - 7:30
Trip 28: Francis Beidler Forest - 7:15
Trip 29: Kiawah Island and Beachwalker Park - 6:15
Trip 30: South Tibwin Plantation - 7:15

Afternoon Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)
Trip 31: Folly Beach - 1:15
Trip 32: Caw Caw Interpretive Center - 1:30
Trip 33: Francis Beidler Forest - 1:00
Trip 34: South Tibwin Plantation - 1:00
Trip 35: Charles Towne Landing SHS- 1:00
Trip 36: Big (Half) Day Photography Challenge - 1:00

The times listed above are when the cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists, or show up at the meeting place and tell someone.

All trips depart from hotel in the parking lot. Look for the placard with your trip number. There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips e-mailed to you in advance. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down, and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the trip site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.

Food for purchase during field trips may be somewhat limited. Accordingly, plan to take snacks and beverages with you, and be sure to pack a lunch for the all day trips.

We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips in order to save fuel, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling, and if you would like to drive and have room for new or old friends, please let your trip leader know when you arrive for your outing.

Please note that the traditional Saturday evening buffet will not be offered in Charleston. A wide variety of dining options from fast/casual to fine dining are available within a short distance from the host hotel.

Register online at:
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Charleston Field Trip Descriptions

All Day Trips

Trips 1 & 19: Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (limited to 15 participants)

Located 20 miles from Charleston and accessed only by boat, Cape Romain NWR's 66,000-acre ecosystem of barrier islands and saltmarsh habitats extends 22 miles along the coast. This special resource is part of the Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve, being of international significance due to its high conservation value and educational importance. Participants on this trip will explore by boat the saltmarsh estuaries at different tides, seeking out concentrations of migrating shorebirds, marsh wading birds, gulls and terns as well as Clapper Rails, Marsh Wrens, Seaside Sparrows and many other species that comprise the diverse assemblage of birdlife. After exploring the estuaries and marshes, we will then debark for a bit of land birding on Bulls Island where we hope to pick up migrating raptors and songbirds, including warblers, Painted Bunting, and others. Our boat leaves at 9:30 AM and our estimated return is 3:30 PM. This field trip is a special charter through Coastal Expeditions and there is a $40.00/person fee.

Approximate travel distance: 45 minutes to Garris Landing, located at the end of Bulls Island Road near the small village of Awendaw

Facilities: Public restroom at Garris Landing

Access conditions: Some of our time will be spent on open water in a 27-foot boat. At Bulls Island expect easy to moderate walking conditions through loose, possibly muddy soils. Depending on weather, participants should prepare for full sun exposure and carry insect repellent.

Trips 2 & 20: Santee Coastal Reserve and the Santee Delta

Designated an Important Bird Area, Santee Coastal Reserve encompasses 24,000 acres of varied habitat including pine forests, freshwater, brackish and tidal wetlands, and agricultural fields. Look for species typical of longleaf ecosystems including Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Waterfowl, rails, and a variety of marsh wading birds, bitterns, and a number of fall migrants are all possible. Santee Delta is an adjacent 1,700-acre resource containing remnant historic rice fields and bottomland hardwoods. It can be very good for rails and fall migrants.

Approximate travel time: One hour

Facilities: No public restrooms available on site but efforts will be made to stop in McClellanville while en route where snacks and drinks are also available.

Access conditions: Some birding by car, but most by walking on dirt roads and dikes for substantial distances. Participants should be prepared for mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and insect repellent.

Trips 3 & 21: Bear Island Wildlife Management Area

Managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Bear Island ranks as one of South Carolina's top birding destinations. It consists of 17,000 acres in the heart of the ACE Basin, a multi-partnered complex of significant wildlife resources and habitats. It is also an Important Bird Area. Bear Island consists of freshwater ponds, marshes, hardwood forests, pine plantations, and open fields. It is accessed by miles of dikes that offer opportunities to see a variety of birds such as Mottled Duck, birds of prey including Barn Owl, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, American White Pelican, Least Bittern, American Avocet and others. Depending on conditions, Bear Island can be excellent for migrating shorebirds, and transient songbirds.

Approximate travel time: 1:15

Facilities: No public restrooms available at Bear Island, though a restroom stop will be made at nearby Bennett's Point. A convenience store here also has a limited selection of snacks and drinks.

Access conditions: We will walk along dikes with some driving on dirt roads. Participants should be prepared for full sun exposure and mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

Trips 4 & 22: Edisto Island and Roxbury Park

Edisto Beach State Park offers excellent beach birding and its varied coastal habitats of saltmarshes, estuaries and maritime forests support an impressive array of birds including fall migrants. Roxbury Park is a newly opened 157-acre nature park located along Highway 174 in the town of Meggett. The park has eight distinct ecosystems supporting a diverse assemblage of wildlife and is accessed by a well-maintained system of trails. Participants will also explore the varied wetlands here including tidal marshes, creeks, freshwater and brackish ponds, and swamp lands. We hope to find a variety of wading birds, Wood Stork, Red-headed Woodpecker, Painted and Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeak, and a variety of other woodland songbirds. Additional information on Roxbury Park can be found at http://www.roxburypark.org/home.html

Approximate travel time: 1 hour to Edisto Island

Facilities: Public restrooms are available.

Access conditions: Easy to moderate walking. Park entrance fee at Edisto Beach State Park is $5 a person. Participants should be prepared for full sun exposure and mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

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Charleston Field Trip Descriptions

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Trips 5 & 23: Tour of Charleston Harbor
This is Charleston birding at its best. Participants will explore such sites as Patriots Point, the Pitt Street Bridge, Fort Moultrie, and a variety of beach access points on Sullivan's Island including Breach Inlet. Other local birding hotspots will be checked along the way while we visit saltmarshes, beaches, mudflats, live oak forests, and sand dunes. Birds we hope to find include a variety of shorebirds, marsh wading birds, Clapper Rails, gulls, terns, and migrant warblers.
Approximate travel time: 15-30 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms and restaurants available.
Access conditions: This leisurely-paced tour involves relatively easy walking. Participants should be prepared for full sun exposure by wearing appropriate clothing, sunscreen and possibly insect repellent.

Trip 6: Center for Birds of Prey and Francis Marion National Forest
This trip is especially designed with the nature photographer in mind. Participants will enjoy morning birding in the Francis Marion National Forest at such spots as the Sewee Shell Mound, Garris Landing, the Sewee Visitor Center (home of the Red Wolf breeding program) and the famed I'on Swamp. In the afternoon we will make a lunch stop at the Sewee Outpost and then bird the grounds of the Center for Birds of Prey. This world-class facility has a strong educational outreach program and supports important conservation research involving raptors. The Center houses more than 40 species of birds of prey, and participants will observe an educational flight demonstration. There will be plenty of photo opportunities, so be sure to bring your camera.
Approximate travel time: 30 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms and food stops will be available.
Access conditions: The Center for Birds of Prey has a $25/person fee. This trip involves relatively easy walking. Participants should be prepared for the possibility of mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and bringing insect repellent.

Trip 24: McAlhany Nature Preserve and the Orangeburg Sod Farms
Owned by the Charleston Natural History Society, the McAlhany Nature Preserve consists of diverse habitat types along the Edisto River. Participants will explore an oxbow lake, riverine bottomlands and upland hardwoods, as well as a longleaf pine restoration area. We hope to find a variety of migrant songbirds that are typical of woodland and early successional habitats. Next we will visit the Orangeburg sod farm, well known for its sometimes spectacular shorebird migration. The occasionally-present species of interest include American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and others. In addition we will also search for such local residents as Northern Bobwhite, Common Ground-Dove, Horned Lark and others.
Approximate travel time: 1 hour to McAlhany and then 45 minutes in the afternoon to the sod farms
Facilities: Restrooms and food stops will be available en route.
Access conditions: Easy walking but possibly muddy conditions at McAlhany Nature Preserve. Birding at the sod farms will involve mostly roadside stops but conditions can be muddy.

Half Day Trips

Trips 7, 13, 25 & 31: Folly Beach
Folly Beach offers good birding, particularly during fall migration and winter. Participants will explore both ends of the island and search various coastal habitats including beaches, saltmarshes, live oak forests, and tidal creeks. At certain times, the island can be a magnet for migrating shorebirds and passerines so let's keep our fingers crossed! It can also be good for butterflies, and we may stop and take a look at a few of these as well.
Approximate travel time: 30 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms available
Access conditions: $7/vehicle parking fee at Folly Beach County Park and an additional parking fee at the Folly Island Pier ($10/vehicle at the pier; $5/vehicle across the street.) This trip will involve easy to moderate walking through loose, sandy soils. Participants should be prepared for full sun conditions by wearing appropriate clothing and sunscreen.

Trips 8, 14, 26 & 32: Caw Caw Nature and History Interpretive Center
Located near Ravenel, this Charleston County Park is situated on land that was once historic rice plantations. The park consists of 1,000 acres of diverse coastal habitats including cypress/tupelo swamps, a tidal saltmarsh, freshwater and brackish water impoundments, and upland and bottomland forests. The property is accessed by six miles of trails and offers easy and quality birding. Over 250 species of birds have been documented in the park, and we hope to find marsh wading birds, rails, owls, vireos, wrens, migrant warblers, and others.
Approximate travel time: 30 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms available.
Access conditions: $5/person fee to enter the County Park. This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 9 & 27: Magnolia Gardens
This historic plantation and beautifully-landscaped gardens contains all types of freshwater habitats, from cypress swamps to old rice fields. Participants can expect to see raptors, marsh

Charleston Field Trip Descriptions

birds, and a variety of migrating songbirds, particularly warblers. We will also enjoy great views of birds flying over the Ashley River and hope to encounter early-arriving waterfowl and other species of interest.
Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms and a snack bar will be available
Access conditions: $23/person fee which includes access to the gardens, the Audubon Swamp Garden, and plantation house. This trip will involve easy walking.

Trips 10, 15, 28 & 33: The Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest

This Audubon sanctuary contains a portion of what is considered the largest remaining old-growth cypress-tupelo swamp in the world, known as Four Holes Swamp. Participants will experience the majestic wonder of this swampland along a 1.75 mile boardwalk. Birds we hope to find include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and other wading birds including Wood Stork, a variety of woodpeckers, and migrating songbirds.
Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms available
Access conditions: $10/person fee. This trip involves easy walking on a wooden boardwalk. Participants should be prepared for possible mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and bringing insect repellent.

Trips 11 & 29: Kiawah Island and Beachwalker Park

This special trip will include beach and forest birding and a visit to a bird banding station. While on the beach we hope to find a variety of shorebirds including Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, and Piping Plover as well as various terns, gulls, and raptors. Participants will also visit a bird banding station, where a variety of migrant passerines may be viewed up close. These may include various warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos, etc.
Approximate travel time: 45 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms are available at parking lot at the beginning and end of the trip. Bring snacks and water.
Access conditions: This trip involves a strenuous one mile walk each way. Participants should be prepared to get their feet wet and for full sun conditions and possible mosquitoes.

Trips 12 and 30: South Tibwin Plantation

Located in the Francis Marion National Forest, just off of US 17, South Tibwin Plantation is a natural haven for birders. Participants will explore mature upland pine forests, hardwoods, and managed impoundments adjacent to tidal marshes. We hope to find a diverse variety of birds including waders, bitterns, birds of prey, rails, migrating shorebirds, and a number of resident and migrant songbirds.
Approximate travel time: 45 minutes
Facilities: Public restrooms not available on site but efforts will be made to stop en route. Bring snacks and water.
Access conditions: Moderate walking and be prepared for possible mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and insect repellent.

Trips 17 and 35: Charles Towne Landing SHS

Located on a point of land near the Ashley River, Charles Towne Landing is the site where a group of English settlers landed in 1670, establishing what would become the birthplace of the Carolina colony. This State Historic Site features excellent coastal habitats including tidal creeks, brackish lagoons, marshes, and hardwood forests. Participants will enjoy searching for a variety of water birds and migrant songbirds, along the self-guided history trails that wind by recreated early colonial structures and grounds, archaeological sites, and beautifully landscaped gardens. Time permitting, we may also visit exhibits located in the visitor center.
Approximate travel time: 10-15 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms available at park
Access conditions: $10/person entrance fee. This trip will involve moderate walking.

Trip 18: New Birder's Workshop

Designed as an introduction to birding and led by an experienced birder and teacher, participants will visit some of the Charleston Harbor hot spots like Patriot's Point and Pitt Street Causeway, searching for birds in their natural habitats and focusing on identification techniques and species behavior. Experienced birders are welcome as well since there is great value in sharing group knowledge!
Approximate travel time: 15-30 minutes
Facilities: A restroom stop will be available
Access conditions: Easy walking. Prepare for full sun exposure by wearing appropriate clothing, sunscreen and possibly insect repellent.

Trip 36: The Big (Half) Day Photography Challenge

Birding on your own. Participants will actively seek out and photograph birds. The winner will be the person whoever photographs the most identifiable species during a specified time period. The birds must be ABA countable species and identifiable from photographs. More details will be given at our Friday evening program.
Approximate Travel Time: You decide

Sunday Morning Hot Spots TBA

Birder's Book Review

Steve Shultz

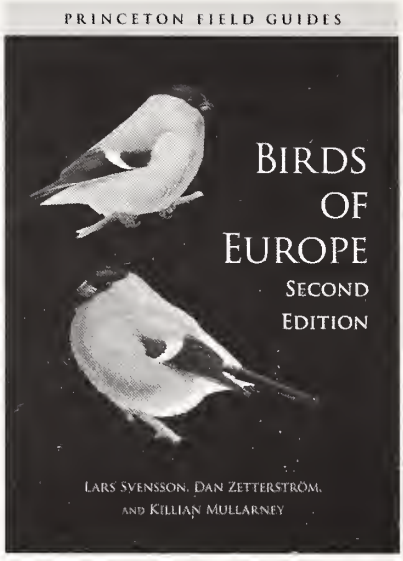
Birds of Europe, Second Edition
Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterström and Peter J. Grant,
ISBN 978140 0848072, 448 pages, cloth
2014, Princeton University Press, $35.00

So, what's the best field guide to use when I am in [insert name of country/island/continent here]? In some places the answer is fairly straightforward. There may only be one field guide that covers the section of Outer Mongolia that you are visiting, and it is, by default, the best one. Even if the drawings were made by a kindergarten class and are done in crayon. Here in North America we enjoy a dizzying array of field guides to the birds. If you don't believe me, look at my bookshelf! The answer to which one of these is best is not clear cut, and if you ask a dozen birders, you'll probably get thirteen answers.

I rather much figured that Europe would be similar to North America in that I would be faced with a difficult choice on which guide or guides to purchase. So I was surprised when I began my research to see the same name pop up over and over again. Nearly all of my sources indicated that the "Collins Guide" was THE birding guide to Europe. So, you might be asking, if the Collins guide is the "it" thing, why is this guy reviewing *Birds of Europe, Second Edition?* The answer is fairly simple. On this side of the pond, the book is published by Princeton University Press and titled as noted above. In Europe, the book sports a different cover and naming convention, but the contents are the same.

Past reviewers lavished serious praise on the tome, including sound bites like "undoubtedly the finest field guide that has ever been produced". Pretty strong praise, but after a week or two with the book, I must agree that it does the job it is asked to perform elegantly and without fuss.

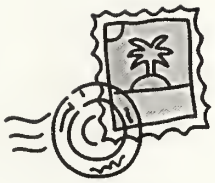
Describing 713 species, the guide spans Europe as it is traditionally known, as well as North Africa north of 30 degrees north latitude, a large part of the Middle East (excluding Iran and Iraq), and the Canary Islands. Text and range maps are on pages alternating with illustrations, so drawings are on pages facing those with text. While small, the distribution maps allow readers to quickly determine presence or absence, along with seasonality. The illustrations generally are of high quality, and I especially like the small touches such as providing drawings of birds in habitat throughout the plates.



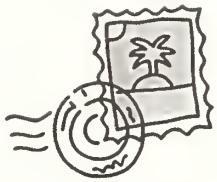
While the volume covers all of Europe, plus the outlying areas described previously, it offers a distinctively U.K. slant in that abundance codes are keyed to the birds' presence in Great Britain and Ireland. I do not see this as detracting from use in other areas to any significant degree, as species that are rare or limited in distribution are described as such in the text.

In addition to the 713 species treated in the main chapters, an additional 59 species that are of occasional presence are covered (many of these are North American species of which readers of this review likely already have working knowledge.) Additionally, 32 species that breed ferally or are presumed escapees are illustrated and briefly covered with text, while another 118 species that have only been recorded 1-3 times are listed. Essentially, any species likely to be encountered within the coverage area can be found in the guide, making a booklist for a trip to Europe conveniently short from the perspective that a single, relatively compact and portable book should suffice.

Birders only visiting Great Britain may find the pocket-sized book *RSPB Pocket Guide to British Birds* by Simon Harrap useful. Covering 215 of the most common birds found in Great Britain, this petite and inexpensive ($9.95) book suffices for the majority of species that may be found on a typical visit to England, Scotland, and Wales.



Save a Stamp!
Consider using our Online Registration at
www.carolinabirdclub.org!



CBC Charleston Meeting Registration Form
September 26-27, 2014

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____—_____ Evening phone (____)_____—_____

Email _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____ x $25 = $ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-member) ____ x $30 = $_____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above.

Total Enclosed = $_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs $35.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____Date_____Signature_____Date_____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled, or cancelled. www.carolinabirdclub.org

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, September 19, 2014.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary (hq@carolinabirdclub.org). If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2014 - Charleston, SC
Winter 2015 - Nags Head, NC
Spring 2015 - Clemson, SC

CBC Board Members

President, Katherine Higgins
Wilmington, NC kathwrens@gmail.com

Vice-Presidents
Ron Clark, Kings Mountain, NC
Jeff Click, Easley, SC
Scott Winton, Durham, NC

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Website Editor, Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC
Editor of *CBC Newsletter*, Steven Shultz
2404 Bristers Spring Way, Apex, NC 27523
919-608-2069, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.
Headquarters Secretary, Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $25; Family, $30; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, $30; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues of $25 include $4 for a subscription to *CBC Newsletter* and $5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00. Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2014.

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